

**REMARKS**

These remarks are in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed December 9, 2004. Claims 2, 3 and 8 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification as filed. For example, support can be found in the Table at pages 4-6. No new matter is believed to have been introduced.

**Response To Restriction Requirement And Election Of Invention**

The Examiner alleges that the patent application contains 8 separate and distinct inventions as follows:

- I. Claims 1-3, drawn to methods of preventing biofilm formation by inhibiting gacA/gacS regulatory system utilizing antibodies to gacS, classified in class 424, subclass 130.1;
- II. Claim 5, drawn to antibodies to gacS that inhibit the gacA/gacS regulatory pathway, classified in class 424, subclass 150.1;
- III. Claim 6, drawn to small molecules that inhibit the gacA/gacS regulatory pathway, classified in class 530, subclass 300;
- IV. Claims 7-9, drawn to methods of treating biofilm infection by inhibiting gacA/gacS regulatory system utilizing antibodies to gacS, classified in class 424, subclass 130.1;
- V. Claims 11-14, drawn to methods of modulating biofilm formation by inhibiting gacA/gacS regulatory system utilizing antibodies to gacS, classified in class 424, subclass 150.1;
- VI. Claims 11-13 and 15, drawn to methods of modulating biofilm formation by inhibiting gacA/gacS regulatory system utilizing small molecules that bind to gacS, classified in class 530, subclass 350;
- VII. Claim 17, drawn to compositions comprising antibodies to gacS that modulate the gacA/gacS regulatory pathway, classified in class 424, subclass 150.1; and
- VIII. Claim 18, drawn to compositions comprising small molecules

that specifically bind to gacS and modulate the gacA/gacS regulatory pathway, classified in class 530, subclass 300.

In response to the Restriction Requirement Applicants elect the invention of Group I (claims 1-3). Applicants note that claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 2 and thus is also a member of the elected group. This election is made with traverse.

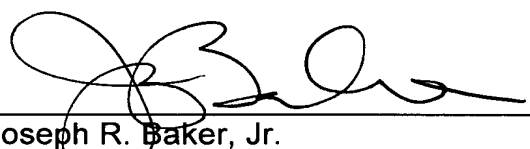
Applicants respectfully traverse on the grounds that searching and examining Groups I and V would not place an undue burden on the Examiner. The two groups are in the same class and comprise related subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request joinder of Groups I and V.

Submitted concurrently herewith is a Petition for Extension of Time and the required fee to extend the response period to February 9, 2005. Please apply any other required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: February 8, 2005

By:   
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Joseph R. Baker, Jr.  
Registration No. 40,900

Suite 400  
402 W. Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101-3542  
(619) 446-5600